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Heraclitus Ridens,

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A DIALOGUE between *JEST* and *EARNEST* Concerning the *TIMES*.

From Saturday March the 11th: to Tuesday the th. 14 1703/4.

Jeſt. IT is even as I told you, we can never want a Subject, while *Nob* is amongſt the Number of the Living. Carry but a Tongue in your Head, and his *Countryman* and *He* will find Employment for it.

Earn. Truly he has made your words good with a Witneſs in his laſt, and thoſe that had him under their Conſideration laſt Week at *Hicks* his Hall, cannot be unfurniſh'd for Grounds for an Indictment the next *Goal Delivery*, if ridiculing the Proclamation the Government was pleas'd to iſſue out againſt him for *Ten Days* only, if Affronting the Prince and his Council, if Libelling the Houſe of Commons, if caſting the greateſt Aſperſions upon the Judges, and Calumniating the whole Miniſtry, be Crimes and Miſdemenours that are Puniſhable.

Jeſt. Have a care what you ſay, for he'll undoubtedly have the Impudence to deny all this, and charge you with *Falſities* and *Forgeries* in his next.

Earn. That I am not to queſtion at this time of the day when he is loſt to all Shame; but to do what in me lies to prevent it, I ſhall make uſe of his own Words to Condemn him with, and this *Wicked Servant* that takes the Wages of Unrightiouſneſs from the Seditious, ſhall be *judg'd from his own Mouth.* In the firſt Place, ſays this good Friend of ours, *I have been knock'd down in a SWOON for theſe ten days together by a Proclamation.* What can this imply from a Fellow of his hardy Conſtitution, that has ever ſince the Proclamation came out, made a Jeſt of Her Majeſty's and the Houſe of Common's Diſpleaſure, but that he valu'd it not. Other People might indeed be in a *Swoon* at ſuch a Trifle, but he was above any ſuch thing as Fear, or to be reach'd by any Concern from it.

Jeſt. I am of another Opinion, and what would you ſay if this Doughty Man ſhould pack up all his Heroical Virtues, and communicate his brazen Perfections to his modeſt Acquaintance the *Dutch*, who ſtand in need of a Bluſhing Maſter to Inſtruct 'em in the whole Art and Myſtery of Courteous and ſubmiſſive Behaviour.

Earn. Why, as you ſay, he ſeems to ſquint a little that way; a Grand Jury may put him upon the Wing, and it is not a Hundred Pounds to a Penny, that he is in *England* next Month.

Jeſt. A Good Voyage to him, with all my Heart! But *Holland*, as I take it, is no abiding place for him, though he knows the way thither. For the Earls of *Portland* and *Albemarle* owe him a Kindneſs for a ſmall Favour he has been pleas'd to do the *Dutch* Nation, and in particular themſelves, in his *Foreigners*, as well as his *Obſervator*; and it's not to be doubted, but ſince they have Power enough to return the Obligation, they will certainly do it. But it's no great Matter where he goes, ſo he is but gone, and rids us of a common Incendiary. My Buſineſs is to go on with what I propos'd, and make it appear that though I cannot make uſe of his own word *Recriminating*, upon His Royal Highneſs and ~~His~~ His Council, for ſuch Great Perſonages deſcend not to take Notice of ſo Inſignificant a Creature, as a Triobulary Solicitor for a few Mutinous Swabbers, I ſhall prove from his own words again, that he has been Guilty of the Higheſt Indecencies to 'em. *I tell thee, honeſt Countryman, the Higheſt Office in* England *is not above the Law of* England, [meaning the Lord High Admiral] *and the Laws of* England *were made to Detect and Puniſh Offenders.* True; But who are theſe Offenders? His Royal Highneſs or His Council? Yes certainly, theſe are the Perſons he would be thought to Aim at, and whoſe pretended Miſmanagements he would render the whole Populace Jealous of, by his malicious Innuendos. He knows, the ready way to touch the Queen in the moſt Tender Part, is to do it in the Perſon of Her moſt Deareſt Conſort, and to make Majeſty it ſelf ſuſpected, is to fall upon what is in the Higheſt Regard with Her; but every one, but ſuch as are induſtriouſly blind, may have an Inſight into his Deſigns, and whatever Grounds he may ſay he has to Report the contrary, thoſe that are Men of greater Penetration than he, have all imaginable Satisfaction in ſeeing the Fleet ſo well Equip'd and Victual'd, our Ships in ſuch Forwardneſs, and our whole Marine Affairs ſo well Regulated, as to render the whole Courſe of the Lord High Admiral's Adminiſtration to be of a Piece with the moſt Conſummate Experience, and altogether employ'd for the Honour and Intereſt of a Kingdom which His High Alliance has made more Dear to Him than the Place of His Nativity.

Earn.

Jeſt. And yet notwithſtanding all theſe Baſe, Scandalous, and falſe Inſinuations, this *Reputation-Nibler* is not ferreted out of his Coney-Burrough. What a Deuce are thoſe Fellows a doing whom he calls the *Parliament Bear-Dogs*; Do they ſit with their Hands in their Pockets? An honeſter Man than he could have been found long ſince. Where's *Jack Mayot* that he is not up at the A — of him?

Earn. Where ſhould he but at the *Broom Ale-houſe*, *Nob* may be this Minute with the B——'s Porter, for all that he knows, and yet he'll not wag an Ace after him. Well it's a good thing to be *without a Shilling* ſometimes, for that makes ſome Offenders be thought not worth a Taking; but I have a Compliment in Store that he puts upon the Houſe of Commons, may rouze all the Carbuncles in *Jack*'s Face, to light him into a Diſcovery of this Fugitive Priſoner. He aſks the Queſtion whether *there are no Occaſional Conformiſts amongſt the Parliament Men, with a Club of Non-Jurors and Perkinites?* And would infer as much, in his Panegyrick upon the Lords, *who*, he ſays, *are above the Reach of* Bribery, *and therefore we need not fear a Corrupt Verdict being given in that Houſe*; as if ſuch evil Practices were to be found ſomewhere elſe among the Members of St. *Stephen*'s Chappel, and that they were not above the Reach of it, which, in my Opinion, gives Ground enough without any thing elſe for a Proſecution, if he dares be as big as his word, and put himſelf upon his Tryal.

Jeſt. He has been taught the Way to go to another Country. Tryal, ſay you? He's not ſuch a Fool as you take him to be, unleſs he were permitted to make Choice of his own Jury, and except againſt all honeſt Church-Men, as he does againſt the Seedſman in the *Strand*.

Earn. Not a word more of the Leaven of Unrighteouſneſs, if he would but fall upon ſuch as deſerv'd his Invectives, it would be none of our Buſineſs to Cenſure him for it; for if Men will do ill, it is but Reaſon to expect they may be Cenſur'd for it. But he flings his Excrements on thoſe that are to be his Judges, and tells us, *He is ready to Anſwer in Court to any Indictment that may be brought againſt him, where he expects to have fair Play, and not to be Condemned without being Heard, which will be the Practice of our Courts of Juſtice as long as the preſent Judges are in Being*, which is as much as to ſay they Condemn poor Culprits like himſelf without being Heard, which they will continue to do while they ſit upon the Bench.

Jeſt. This Fellow takes care to get himſelf Enemies againſt the Day of Wrath; tho' after all, if the Captain of the *Queenburough* Man of War, did as he ſays, I ſhould give him my Voice to be Broke for that Exploit of his, in leaving Her Majeſty's Ship at that rate. As for his Reflections on the Courts of Judicature, thoſe that preſide in 'em know beſt how to right themſelves; and if a Reverend old Gentleman ſhould Tuck his Thumbs into his Girdle at his Tryal, he may take it for his own. All I have to ſay further on this Head, omitting the merry Wives at the *Pye-Tavern*, and the *Primum Mobile* of all his Troubles, an Expreſſion that never before fell from the Tongue of a Man. I ſhall apply what has been ſaid by way of Fable, and ſo conclude.

ONce on a Time the Beaſts together drew,
Summon'd to meet upon a Grand Review,
Each to declare if Injur'd, or Oppreſs'd,
And have their Injuries and Wrongs Redreſs'd.
The Lyon, fix'd and ſeated on the Throne,
Heard all their Grievances diſtinctly ſhewn,
Diſtributing Rewards, and ſpecial Grace
To ſuch as did the Duties of their Place,
And Puniſhments to ſuch as broke their Truſt,
To Merits and Demerits ſtrictly Juſt.

When from the reſt a Grumbling Bear aroſe,
And thus Impeach'd his Soverign's Friends for Foes:
Pleaſe you, my Liege, for Juſtice I entreat,
Grant me the Gracious Gift from Mercy's Seat;
Thoſe Officers of State that near you ſtand,
Pinch the Revenues, and Diſtreſs the Land,
They for themſelves, not you, the Laws diſpenſe,
And are as void of Honeſty as Senſe;
The Panther there and Leopard ſhould be Try'd,
You'll ne'er do well till they are ſet aſide;
Till this your Miniſtry is Purg'd anew,
And ſuch as I our Great Endowments ſhew.

Hold, ſaid the Royal Brute, thy Councils ſpare,
And from Adviſing Sovereigns forbear;
Know, Beaſt of Prey, and of Ungenerous Mind,
Bears will be Bears, a Diſcontented Kind,
In Place uneaſy, out of Office bold,
And reaching for the Reins they cannot hold;
Hadſt thou but prais'd thoſe Worthies thou haſt [blam'd,
Doubtleſs I ſhould their Service have diſclaim'd,
But Vain's thy Prayer as Siniſter thy Ends,
For Foes to Bears muſt needs be Lyons Friends.

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